

US Application No. 10/021224

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks and amendments.

Claim Status

Claims 1, 2, 4, 8-14 and 16-20 are pending in the application and claims 1, 2, 4, 8-10, 12, 13, and 16 stand rejected. Claims 11 and 14 stand objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicant acknowledges with thanks the allowance of Claims 17-20.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1 and 12 are amended to incorporate the elements of objected to claims 11 and 14 to put Claims 1 and 12 in condition for allowance. Claims 11 and 14 are now cancelled since they are incorporated into Claims 1 and 12.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

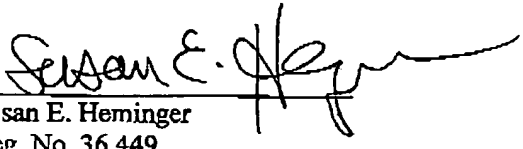
Claims 1, 2, 4, 8-10, 12, 13, and 16 allegedly stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Orbanes et al. (U.S. Patent Application 6,785,667). Claims 1 and 12 are amended to incorporate the elements of objected to claims 11 and 14. In view of this amendment, this rejection is now mute.

In light of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejections of record and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Nelson Liang An Chang

By


Susan E. Heminger
Reg. No. 36,449
(650) 236-2738

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Hewlett-Packard Company
Legal Department IPA
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400